Pitts Post 4/15/66, not to be secret

Discussion Premature, Says McCloskey

State Department Rolls May Go Secret

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Who's who in the State Department may soon be secret. It's still up in the air.

State Department officials said early yesterday that the new edition of the Department's 576-page "Biography Register" will be published in June or July and will bear the classified label "official use only."

But no sooner was the news of the secrecy decision out than Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey labeled it "premature."

"Whether it is to be classified is not possible to say," McCloskey told a news conference.

For years the volume has been for sale to the public for $3.50. It contains biographical paragraphs on officials of the State Department, U.S. Foreign Service, Mission to the United Nations, Agency for International Development, Peace Corps, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, U.S. Information Agency and Foreign Agricultural Service.

There was speculation the move was made in order to prevent Central Intelligence Agency agents in U.S. embassies from being identified.

The registry does not list CIA agents, but by noticing omissions and other pecularities in the register's biographical data it is sometimes possible to make an educated guess.